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PATENT  
2173-0120P

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IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
APPLICANT: Keiji ENDO et al. CONF.: 2206  
SERIAL NO: 09/590,375 GROUP: 1652  
FILED: June 9, 2000 EXAMINER: E. Slobodyansky  
FOR: MUTANT  $\alpha$ -AMYLASES

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

February 28, 2003

Sir:

The following preliminary remarks and amendments are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please add the following claims:

--12. A mutant  $\alpha$ -amylase obtained by making a substitution or deletion of at least one amino acid residue of specific positions in SEQ ID NO:1, or by making a substitution or deletion of at least one amino acid residue corresponding to the above-mentioned amino acid residue in a sequence having at least 95% homology to SEQ ID NO:1,

wherein said at least one amino acid residue is selected from the group consisting of: